

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3956

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR CG US CF

SUBJECT: US/CONGO RELATIONS: ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

REF: STATE 178435

1. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ME TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO BRAZZAVILLE, AMB. FISHER (SP) WHO WAS IN KINSHASA FOR A FEW HOURS AUGUST 6. AMBASSADOR FISHER TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THERE WAS MOVEMENT IN THE TALKS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE CONGO TOWARD THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. I REPLIED THAT I HAD HEARD THE SAME THING BUT THAT EMBASSY KINSHASA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THESE TALKS. FISHER SAID THAT HIS CONCERN WAS STRICTLY ADMINISTRATIVE AS WEST GERMANY IS THE PROTECTING POWER IN BRAZZAVILLE, AND THAT HE HOPED THAT HE COULD BE KEPT COMEWHAT INFORMED OF THE TIMING OF ANY EVENTUAL RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AND THAT HE COULD RECEIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING A VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS IN THIS REGARD.

2. AS FISHER DESCRIBED OUR REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS IN BRAZZAVILLE, IT APPEARS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE, WE HAVE THREE APARTMENTS, THREE VILLAS AND A WAREHOUSE (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A SHED). WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE VILLA WHICH THE GERMANS USE FOR STORAGE, THE OTHER REAL ESTATE IS SUB-LET TO VARIOUS TENANTS. TWO OF THESE LEASES (NOT THE RESIDENCE OR THE CHANCER) HAVE TERMINATED AND HE IS IN NEGOTIATION WITH PROSPECTIVE TENANTS FOR THEIR
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OCCUPANCY. HE WONDERS IF HE SHOULD PROCEED OR HOLD OFF

ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THE RESIDENCE IS OCCUPIED BY "A CONGOLESE FISHMONGER" AND HE IS CONSTANTLY DEMANDING THE ADDITION OF BARS ON THE WINDOWS AND OTHER REPAIRS. OBVIOUSLY FISHER HAS NO INTENTION OF ACCEDING TO THESE REQUESTS BUT THE GENERAL QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO THE TIMING OF ANY RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS REMAINS: FISHER WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO APPROACH THESE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS.

3. AMBASSADOR FISHER ALSO POINTS OUT THAT NGOUABI HAS FOR SOME TIME MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE US CHANCERY BUILDING. THE CONGOLESE IN GENERAL WISH TO RESERVE THE ENTIRE WATERFRONT FOR GOC OFFICES, BUT MORE PARTINENTLY IT APPEARS THAT THE CHANCERY IS NEXT DOOR TO ONE OF NGOUABI'S PRIVATE VILLAS -- WITH A DIRECT VIEW INTO THE PRESIDENT'S GARDEN AND WHAT FISHER DESCRIBED AS VERY PRIVATE GOINGS-ON. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, AMBASSADOR FISHER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE CONGOLESE WOULD BE ADAMENT IN THEIR DEMAND THAT WE RELINQUISH THE CHANCERY. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION THE BUILDING WAS NOT WORTH KEEPING. HE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD THINK OF NO ALTERNATIVE PROPERTY THAT THE CONGOLESE COULD MAKE AVAILABLE BUT SAID THAT IN AN INTERIM PERIOD HE COULD MAKE SPACE SAVAILABLE FOR A SMALL STAFF IN THE GERMAN CHANCERY.

4. I PROMISHED AMBASSADOR FISHER THAT I WOULD RELAY HIS QUESTIONS AND HIS CONCERN TO BE KEPT INFORMED IN MATTERS OF TIMING TO WASHINGTON. AT THIS POINT THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE OFFERED THE USE OF HIS RADIO-TELEPHONE WITH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN BRAZZAVILLE IN THE EVENT THAT WE WOULD WISH TO PASS ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS. I THANKED HIM AND SAID THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH.
WALKER

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